

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Number/Numéro 169



July/juillet 2024

Disclaimer: This Newsletter is produced for members of the RMC Class of 1965 and is based primarily on inputs from members of the Class of 65. It is not an official publication of the Royal Military College nor does it purport to represent the views or opinions of all members of the Class. Unfortunately, the Editorial staff lacks the linguistic skills to produce a bilingual version. Items are published in the official language in which they are received.

Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

The focus of this issue will be on the forthcoming 60th Anniversary Reunion next year, but will also include more information pertaining to feedback to the Arbour Report; a short report on the recent Ottawa Branch RMC Club annual golf tournament; and some more thought provoking words from our favourite blogger.

60th Anniversary Reunion

In Edition 168, our esteemed Class Secretary, **Hugh Spence**, informed us all that the 2025 RMC Reunion Weekend is scheduled for 11-13 September 2025 and asked for a non-binding indication of intent to attend from Class Members. So far at least, that plea has received very limited response but has raised a number of issues and disparate thoughts including the following:

- The Ex-Cadet weekend has evolved into a “badging” weekend with considerably less emphasis on ex-cadets and more on the integration of recruits into the cadet wing.
- Do we want to participate in formal affairs liked the Legacy and Old Brigade Dinners or would less formal gatherings be more attractive?
- Perhaps local reunions with spouses might be more attractive than a central gathering at Kingston?
- A centralised weekend in Kingston will only be interesting to classmates living far from Kingston if there is the full panoply of traditional events.

These random thoughts are the product of a very few respondents. To get a better picture of the Class desires and to allow preliminary planning to proceed Hugh is going to need a lot more clarity with regards to individual attendance and thoughts on the format. I encourage all of you to provide your input as soon as possible.



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CMC Review: What we learned from Allies

As part of preparing to engage with the CMC Review Board, alongside conducting a detailed alumni survey and reviewing alumni submissions, the RMCAA undertook a comprehensive benchmarking study involving Canadian universities and international military academies. The study includes reviewing public domain reports and news articles, as well as interviews with former leaders, instructors and graduates of the U.S. service academies, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (UK), and the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA).

The benchmarking focused on five topics:

- Program structure of Allied service academies
- Military instructor roles and selection processes
- Cadet leader selection processes
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) strategies and initiatives
- Initiatives to address misconduct and mental health

Sent on behalf of CMC Renewal Team

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<https://www.rmcalumni.ca/en/responding-to-the-cmc-review-towards-renewal-what-we-learned-from-allies-and-canadian-post-secondary-institutions/>

Afin de préparer sa rencontre avec le comité d'examen des collèges militaires du Canada, en plus de réaliser un sondage détaillé auprès des ancien(ne)s et d'examiner leurs réponses, l'Association des ancien(ne)s des CMR a entrepris une grande analyse afin de comparer les collèges militaires canadiens aux universités canadiennes et à plusieurs académies militaires étrangères. L'exercice impliquait l'examen de rapports et articles du domaine public, ainsi que des entrevues avec d'anciens cadres, instructeurs et diplômés d'académies militaires des États-Unis, de la Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (Royaume-Uni) et de l'Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA).

Cinq sujets ont été explorés dans le cadre de cette analyse comparative :

- La structure des programmes des autres académies militaires
- Le rôle et le processus de sélection des instructeurs militaires
- Le processus de sélection des élèves-officiers en charge
- Les stratégies et initiatives en matière de DEI
- Les initiatives de gestion des problèmes d'inconduite et de santé mentale

Au nom de l'équipe du renouvellement des CMC

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2024 Ottawa Branch RMC Club Golf Tournament
By 6523 Terry Colfer

Below is a picture of the Class of 1965 participants taken this afternoon following lunch at the RMC golf gathering. The field was full with some 150 alumni players covering classes from 1959 to 2013. Weather was hot and humid but no precipitation. **John Adams** also played but had to leave early and missed the photo.



L to R: Charles Emond, Peter Cooke, Ken Clarkson, Terry Colfer



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Freedom by 6533 Gord Forbes

“The public will believe anything, so long as it is not founded on truth.”
- Edith Sitwell

The Collins Gage Canadian Dictionary defines the word freedom as follows:

1. The state or condition of being free;
2. free use;
3. lack of restraint, frankness;
4. ease of movement or action.”

We’ve heard a lot about freedom in the last couple of years. Most strongly was the so called “Freedom Convoy” in Ottawa in early 2022. They cried for freedom, most notably from Covid restrictions. They wanted to live their lives without masks or vaccines. Of course, there was no laws against such things. They were ‘free’ to do just what they wanted in this regard. It is just that there were consequences if they did so such as not being able to enter the United States. But their demands went beyond that for many participants. They wanted unfettered freedom for just about everything. Other movements have also demanded this. Freedom from taxes. Freedom from police. Freedom to protest. Freedom to own and carry firearms. Freedom to ignore governments and laws. Freedom from any responsibility. Unlimited freedom. Even freedom **from** religion.

“All human situations have their inconveniences. We feel those of the present but neither see nor feel those of the future; and hence we often make troublesome changes without amendment, and frequently for the worse.”
- Benjamin Franklin

There is a word for this type of freedom . . . anarchy. An ugly word in many ways.

If we all lived apart from each other with no interaction, then absolute freedom may be possible. But the moment we interact, there has to be limits. We don’t live alone; we live in societies. We live in families. We live with neighbours with whom we interact. We live in communities large and small. We live in provinces and states, and in countries.

Because we live with others, there must be limits, usually codified as laws. We must not be able to kill others or otherwise do harm. We must not be able to steal from others. We must have rules of how we govern ourselves, whether as a family or as a society. Many of the more recent laws have to do with safety; safety of the individual, and safety of the community.

In general, the rules and laws in most liberal democracies as easy to understand and abide by. In autocratic regimes, this tends not to be the case, hence the reason there are frequent protests, revolutions and civil wars in these countries.



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Freedom (Concluded)

During the convoy protest in Ottawa in 2022, I was hoping that those found guilty of fomenting the protest would be sentenced to spend a year in Venezuela, Saudi Arabia or even Russia. Then they might understand the amount of freedom they have in this country.

Closing Notes

Please get any thoughts on the forthcoming Reunion and your current intentions with respect to attendance to Hugh Spence as soon as possible. I hope everyone is having a good summer and bearing up under the current heat wave. Please keep those inputs coming.



REAR: Luedemann WF, Riddolls PA, Boulton JD, Moore K, Kittredge D, Monette JJ, Daoust JP. CENTRE: Lt/Cdr WA Schroeder (Chairman), Sanford ED (Captain), Gale CM, Harrison RC, Soucy JY, Comeau JG. FRONT: Lay DC, Shareck JD, Cviteovich GE, Piscor WG, Guay EP, Harrington DA, Higuchi HT. ABSENT: Anderson CW.

1964-65 Judo Team